

## Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /075 W

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R 261627Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5108

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN PRINCESSES

REF: USUN 4492 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTS CONVERSATION BETWEEN ZEWDE GABRE-SELLASSIE, FORMER ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AND USUN COUNSELLOR GARMENT IN WHICH THE FORMER EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF ETHIOPIAN PRINCESSES NOW DETAINED IN ADDIS ABABA. ON SEPTEMBER 25, EMBASSY OFFICER HERE RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM MICHAEL MENGESHA, SON OF ONE OF THE PRINCESSES, TELLING THE SAME STORY AND EXPRESSING EQUAL ANXIETY.

2. MENGESHA, ALTHOUGH GRATEFUL FOR USG EFFORTS IN THWARTING THE RUMORED EXECUTION OF THE WOMEN TWO WEEKS AGO, SAYS THE DIRG NOW WILL EFFECT THE SAME RESULT BY A SLOWER, HARSHER METHOD. HE REPORTED THE ELEVEN PRINCESSES ARE PRESENTLY DETAINED "FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION" IN AN ADDIS JAIL, CONFINED IN A SMALL CELL LACKING RUDIMENTARY SLEEPING AND SANITATION FACILITIES WITH FORTY-

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MENTARY SLEEPING AND SANITATION FACILITIES WITH FORTY-

FIVE OTHER PRISONERS. HE DOUBTS THE WOMEN CAN LONG SURVIVE THESE CONDITIONS. MENGESHA HOPES THE USG MIGHT CONSIDER INTERVENING WITH THE DIRG TO PERSUADE THEM AT LEAST TO RETURN THE PRINCESSES TO THEIR FORMER AND MORE ACCEPTABLE PLACE OF DETENTION. HE CONTENDS THAT BECAUSE TWO OF THE PRINCESSES PROBABLY HAVE INFORMATION TO CORROBORATE STORIES THAT THE EMPEROR WAS MURDERED, THERE IS EVEN MORE CAUSE FOR ALARM ABOUT THEIR SAFETY.

3. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS WERE CONCERNED WITH THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AS DEMONSTRATED EARLIER THIS MONTH. HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY MENGESHA'S APPREHENSIONS TO EMBASSY ADDIS AND THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD PASS ON ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE. MENGESHA STRESSED THAT HE HAD NO POLITICAL INTEREST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PRINCESSES, ONLY A FILIAL ANXIETY.

RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRINCESS, PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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